



Volume 143 • No. 38

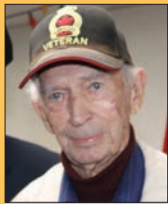
FORT MACLEOD WAS FOUNDED IN 1874 WITH THE ARRIVAL OF THE NORTH WEST MOUNTED POLICE
FORT MACLEOD, ALBERTA, WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 24, 2025

Single Copy - \$1.25

www.fortmacleodgazette.com

ftmgazet@telusplanet.net

NEWS



Honoured
Fort Macleod Legion last week paid tribute to long-time member Basil Wade.

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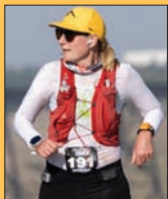
NEWS



Wildlife
Alex Kellington spoke on the Alberta Institute for Wildlife Conservation.

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NEWS



Run for A-T
Crystal Olive and her family will fund-raise for a rare disease.

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CULTURE DAYS



Photo by Frank McTighe

Grass dancer Marcus Healy performed at the Fort Macleod Library on Thursday night. The performance was part of the library's Alberta Culture Days event, which included food, drink, entertainment and talks.

Candidates set for councils, trustees

FRANK MCTIGHE
MACLEOD GAZETTE EDITOR

Brent Feyter will serve another term as mayor of Fort Macleod, but his council will have a new look.

Feyter was the only person to file nomination papers on Monday, but eight people will contest the six council positions open in the municipal election on Monday, Oct. 20.

Incumbents Christina Fox, Jim Monteith, Jeemee Patel, and Aaron Poytress will campaign for another term on council.

Also in the race are former Fort Macleod mayor Shawn Patience, former councillor David Orr and new candidates Len Olson and Tyson Knauf.

Coun. Gord Wolstenholme and Coun. Mackenzie Hengerer are not seeking re-election.

At Monday's council meeting, chief administrative officer Anthony Burdett reviewed the work of council over the past four years, congratulating Feyter on his return as mayor and thanking the outgoing council members for their contributions and wishing all candidates well in the municipal election.

"We look forward to the future and what the community is going to be in store for the next four years," Burdett said.

Voters will have a chance to see the candidates in action during an election forum hosted by the Fort Macleod and District Chamber of Commerce.

The forum is set for 7 p.m. Wednesday, Oct. 8 at the Fort Macleod and District Community Hall.

MD of Willow Creek council

There will be elections in two divisions in the MD of Willow Creek.

Incumbent councillors John Van Driest, Division 1; Maryanne Sandberg, Division 3; Glen Alm, Division 4; Evan Berger, Division 6, and Brian Nelson, Division 7, were the only people in their respective areas to file nomination papers.

In Division 2, incumbent John Kroetsch will be challenged by Cecillie Fleming, and in Division 5 incumbent councillor Earl Hemmaway faces a challenge from Michael Neufeld.

Livingstone Range School Division

There will be elections in all three Livingstone Range School Board wards.

In Ward 1, which includes Nanton, Stavely, Claresholm and Granum, incumbent trustees Kathy Charchun, Carla Gimber and Brad Toone will be challenged by Greg Graves and Kevin Todd for the three trustee positions.

In Ward 2, which includes Crowsnest Pass, Lundbreck, and Cowley, incumbent trustees Greg Long and Clara Yagos are being challenged by Barbara Burnett for the two trustee positions.

In Ward 3, which covers Pincher Creek and Fort Macleod, incumbent trustee Lori Hodges, along with former trustee Jim Burdett, Dan Berezan, Savitree Houdin-Yaworsky and Linda McClelland will campaign for the two trustee positions.



Brent Feyter

100 Scougall
1925 - 2025
Celebrating 100 years in the community by giving \$100,000+ back to Fort Macleod!



MAY — CITIZENS ON PATROL

To those who help law enforcement monitor our town

JUNE — FORT MUSEUM

To the tourist icon in our town that preserves our history

JULY — FIRE DEPARTMENT

To those who volunteer their time to help those in need

AUGUST — HANDIBUS

To those who provide transportation for those who need a ride

SEPTEMBER — FCSS

To those who provide meals and school supplies to those who need it

OCTOBER — FOOD BANK

To those who supply food to those so they don't go hungry

STRONGHOLD
BREWING CO. *Upcoming EVENTS*
230 Main Street | Fort Macleod, AB

Irish
TRAD SESSION Hosted by Niall McKenna
SEPTEMBER 28
3-5 PM

Live MUSIC
CELTIC ROOTS
OCTOBER 4 | 7-9:30 PM

PATIO'S OPEN! FALL HOURS
Wednesday & Thursday - 4 p.m. - 9 p.m.
Friday & Saturday - 2 p.m. - 10 p.m.
Sunday - 2 p.m. - 7 p.m.

YOGA
with Naomi
200 RYT

VINYASA and YIN
6 WEEK SESSIONS for \$75
or \$15 DROP INs

VINYASA
Tuesday | 7 p.m. — Sept. 30-Nov. 4
Thursdays | 5:30 p.m. — Oct. 2-Nov. 6

YIN
Fridays | 5:30 p.m. — Oct. 3-Nov. 7

CALL OR TEXT 403.382.1503 TO REGISTER

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TOL Irrigation Systems
1011 Sgt. Wilde Rd., Fort Macleod, AB T0L 0Z0
mobootsag@gmail.com | mobootsag.ca
403-915-3499

MoBoots Ag Mechanics Ltd.
located in Fort Macleod, AB is now
offering mechanical services again.
Including safeties, maintenance, repairs, etc.
Give us a call at 403-915-3499

MACLEOD CALENDAR

The Famous 5 Foundation's "Trailblazers Tour" exhibit is on display at the Fort Museum throughout September.

Randi Jo Amasio presents on a trip to South Africa in the library's Armchair Traveller Series at 6:30 p.m. Sept. 25.

John Wort Hannam Trio in concert 7:30 p.m. Sept. 26 at Trinity United Church. Proceeds to Empress Theatre.

Allied Arts "Pay What You Want" pottery and art market and fund-raiser 11 a.m. to 5 p.m. Sept. 27.

F.P. Walshe school students will deliver food bags Oct. 1 and pick them up the afternoon of Oct. 2 to support the Salvation Army food bank.

Fort Macleod Healthy Aging and FCSS will host an information night on elder abuse 6 p.m. Oct. 2 at the REO Hall. RSVP by Sept. 26 at 403-553-4491.

Fort Macleod Skating Club AGM 6:15 p.m. Oct. 8 upstairs at the arena.

Empress Theatre and Fort Macleod Library Oktoberfest 6 p.m. Oct. 18 at the community hall.



Sponsored by Fort Macleod Lions Club
Contact:
Griff — 587-220-1470 or
Murray — 403-715-1442

Fort Macleod Legion honours Basil Wade

FRANK MCTIGHE

MACLEOD GAZETTE EDITOR

A Korean War veteran was honoured last week as Legionnaire of the Year.

Basil (Baz) Wade received the award Sept. 15 in a ceremony at Branch 46 of the Royal Canadian Legion in Fort Macleod.

"It is my honour to stand before you this evening to present one of the most meaningful awards in our Legion family," said Len Olson, president of the Fort Macleod branch.

"This award recognizes not only service, but also dedication, loyalty and the spirit of comradeship that keeps our branch strong."

Legion members rose to give Wade a standing ovation following the presentation.

Olson said Wade has gone above and beyond the call of duty in his service to the Legion over many years.

"(Wade) embodies the values we hold dear: commitment to veterans, service to the community, and unwavering support for the branch," Olson said of the longtime sergeant at arms.

Olson said Wade gave freely of his time, never seeking the limelight or recognition, but always making a difference.

"His actions have strengthened our branch, uplifted our community, and carried for-

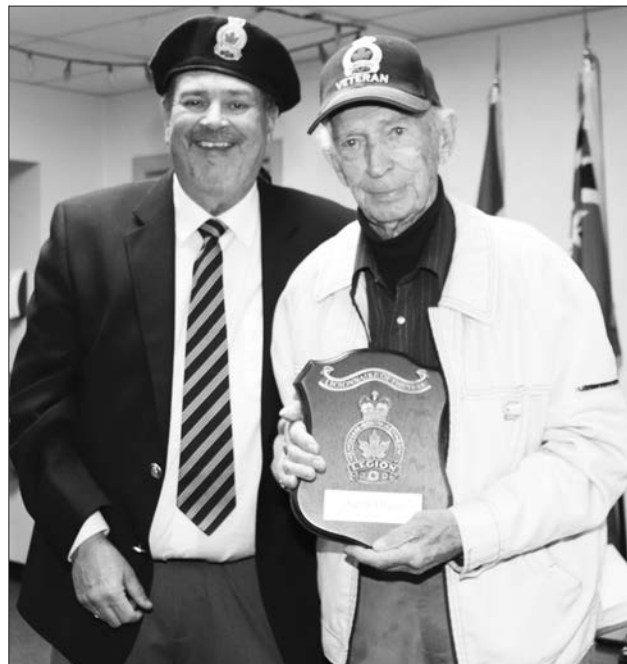


Photo by Frank McTighe

Len Olson, president of the Fort Macleod branch of the Royal Canadian Legion in Fort Macleod, presents the Legionnaire of the Year Award to Basil (Baz) Wade.

ward the proud tradition of the Royal Canadian Legion," Olson said.

Olson said it was with respect and gratitude that

Legion members were honouring Wade.

"(His) dedication truly represents the very best of what it means to be a

Legionnaire," Olson said.

The Royal Canadian Legion is Canada's largest veteran support and community service organization.

F.P. Walshe school students plan food drive next week

RICK BULLOCK

GAZETTE CONTRIBUTOR

The first-ever F.P. Walshe school Thanksgiving food drive last September was a huge success thanks to the amazing kind and caring citizens of Fort Macleod and area.

We filled a 16-foot cube van with more than 330 bags and boxes of food.

Christopher Saprikian, the director of the food bank, was appreciative.

"It helped carry us through the fall and Christmas season, and into the opening months of the New Year," Saprikian said. "I want to assure you, and everyone involved that the food does stay to serve the clients of Fort Macleod."

This year F.P. Walshe students will deliver donation bags to all Fort

Macleod homes the afternoon of Wednesday, Oct. 1 and pick up those bags with your donations of non-perishable food items the afternoon of Thursday, Oct. 2.

All middle school students and as many high school students as possible will be involved.

This project meets so many needs at so many levels, and we hope that citizens will step up as they did last year.

We certainly understand how significant this project is for those in need.

We also are excited about the unity this project can foster in our community as we work together to take care of one another.

Certainly, the research is clear about the value of service for our youth — that of connection, resilience and feelings of self-worth.

So, expect a donation bag to be hung on your doorknob.

Please give what you can and leave your bag in a visible spot near your front door by noon on Thursday, Oct. 2.

Give our students a high-five, and a warm greeting if you see them.

If we miss you or you live outside of town, please drop off any donations at F.P. Walshe school Oct. 1-3. We also invite businesses to get involved.

If you have questions or could help us by driving a food pick-up vehicle on Thursday afternoon, please call at 403-553-4411 or Rick Bullock at 403-330-8270.

Thanks so much. Fort Macleod is a great place to live and grow together.

(Rick Bullock is the F.P. Walshe Service Club advisor.)

Fort Macleod RCMP respond to 57 calls

SGT. CHRISTIAN LAFLEUR

GAZETTE CONTRIBUTOR

During the week of Sept. 15-22, Fort Macleod RCMP responded to 57 calls for service throughout Fort Macleod, Granum and the MD Willow Creek which included:

- One 911 call.
- Two animal calls.
- One assault or assault with a weapon.
- Two abandoned vehicles.
- Six requests to assist the public or other agencies.
- Six persons reported missing, well-being checks or Mental Health Act calls.
- One sudden death.

CRIME BEAT

- Two reports of fraud (grandparent scam).
- Five reports of mischief.
- Two driving while disqualified or suspended.
- Three reports of suspicious persons or vehicles.
- One unauthorized possession of a firearm.
- Nineteen traffic operations or checkpoints.

Community awareness
Fort Macleod and commu-

nities, as far as Vulcan were the victims of the grandparent scam. Fort Macleod RCMP engaged covert resources and in partnership with Southern Alberta Crime Reduction Unit were able to arrest one of the perpetrators. Dustin Day Chief of Lethbridge was arrested and charged with fraud over \$5,000. Following a judicial hearing, he was released with a court date of Oct. 15.

This is an old scam. Fort Macleod RCMP would like to remind everyone that no police agencies, courthouses and or jails will call asking for cash money, e-transfers or

wiring money. Additionally, no agencies will ever ask you for gift cards or to purchase gift cards to pay for fines and or bail. Should you receive such a call, simply hang up the phone. Your next step would be to call the loved one that is supposed to be in trouble, and you will quickly realize that it is a scam. Next, please contact the RCMP. Even if you are convinced a loved one is in trouble, and are told not to contact the police, do so. While these people are good at playing on your feelings, their scams are easily foiled when calling the police.

Town looks for solution to problem cats

FRANK MCTIGHE
GAZETTE EDITOR

The Town of Fort Macleod is working on a solution for problem cats.

At present, the plan is for town staff to develop its own trapping solution for a pilot program next spring.

The problem of wandering and feral cats was on the agenda of council's committee of the whole meeting Sept. 16 at the G.R. Davis Administration Building.

The discussion was in response to a letter from Fort Macleod resident Joshua Bergin, who expressed concern with free-roaming cats.

Director of community and protective services Liisa Gillingham said the town intends to participate in a trap, neuter and release program through the Canadian Animal Task Force or the Alberta Animal Rescue Crew Society.

"We are on the wait list for that," Gillingham said. "We did have good success with that back in 2020."

In the fall of 2020, 95 cats were rounded

up by the the Canadian Animal Task Force. Forty-five of the trapped animals were kittens that were given to a shelter.

The cats were vaccinated and either spayed or neutered and had their ears marked for future reference. Fifty-two surgeries were performed on the cats, including 28 females. Two males and one female had already been neutered and spayed.

Gillingham said in the meantime the town could run its own trap, neuter and release program for a couple months of the year at a reasonable cost.

The cats would be trapped, taken to a vet clinic to be neutered or spayed, and then re-homed through a shelter or released in the area where caught.

Residents would be informed when the community peace officer was deploying the traps so they could ensure their cats are not caught.

The cost to the Town of Fort Macleod to trap, neuter and release is about \$300 per cat.

Gillingham said staff will investigate any grant programs that could offset the costs.

Community peace officer Steve Pothegadoo told council he receives complaints about cats defecating on property and generally being at large.

That information will be used to help determine where traps will be deployed.

Gillingham said a cat by-law would create considerable administrative work, and its effectiveness is compromised by the lack of an animal shelter in Fort Macleod.

Shelters in neighbouring communities are already full.

No volunteer or non-profit community groups have come forward interested in starting an animal shelter in Fort Macleod.

The problem becomes if there is a cat by-law, what does the town do with offenders with no shelter in which to place them.

"I still don't think it's in our best interest to put cats in a by-law," Gillingham said.

Council could add a section in the

existing animal control by-law to address problem cats, including those owned by people who let them roam free.

As far as cat licences, Gillingham said only the good pet owners will comply, just as they do for dog licences.

Coun. Mackenzie Hengerer mentioned a non-profit organization that rescues and rehabilitates stray cats, and suggested working with that group. The group has done some work in Fort Macleod.

Mayor Brent Feyer suggested speaking to the owners of the grain elevator in Fort Macleod, where many of the feral cats are found, about plans for the facility.

Feyer suggested if the owners are part of the problem, they might want to be part of the solution.

Council directed administration to develop a pilot trapping program, along with by-law amendments, for consideration.

"We will be initiating a lot of community engagement with this," Gillingham said.

CULTURE DAYS MUSIC



Janette Van Waardhuizen entertained with a pan flute solo performance Thursday at Fort Macleod Library. The performance was part of the library's Alberta Culture Days event.

Province studies Belly River dam

FRANK MCTIGHE
GAZETTE EDITOR

The province has hired a consultant to study a potential dam on the Belly River five kilometres northwest of Mountain View.

Alberta Agriculture and Irrigation Minister RJ Sigurdson announced Thursday the government hired WSP Canada to do a study.

"We are looking for ways to improve water security to guard against drought and flood and help our farmers and ranchers feed the world," Sigurdson said in a news release.

"We are taking a whole-government approach to managing and maintaining provincial water infrastructure systems to make sure Albertans continue to have a safe, reliable water supply."

The government is reviewing potential sites for dams and other infrastructure to help meet future water needs.

The Belly River and possible improvements to the Waterton and St. Mary headworks system are part of that process.

As it studies the potential dam, the consultant will also determine if there are opportunities to improve the canal between the Waterton and St. Mary reservoirs and how water flow between them could be improved.

These studies are anticipated to take several years.

"The United Irrigation District appreciates the government looking into the possibility of building a storage reservoir and dam on the Belly River and determining whether there are improvements to be

made to the canal between the Waterton and St. Mary reservoirs," said Fred Rice, district manager of United Irrigation District. "We are excited to see this feasibility study going forward, and we look forward to its results. Irrigation is the lifeblood of agriculture in southern Alberta."

Alberta's water management infrastructure provides a reliable water supply for irrigation, municipal, industrial, agricultural and recreational use.

It supports fish and wildlife habitat, flood mitigation and erosion protection.

"It's a privilege to be entrusted with leading the Belly River reservoir feasibility and Waterton-St. Mary headworks system optimization study — an initiative that plays a vital role in strengthening water resilience across southern Alberta," said Rehan Wasti, vice-president of energy, resources and industry for WSP Canada. "We're proud to contribute to Alberta's long-term prosperity through meaningful, impactful solutions."

Alberta Agriculture and Irrigation owns and operates more than 80 dams, 340 kilometres of major irrigation headworks canals, four pumping stations as well as flood protection berms and dikes in the province.

This infrastructure helps supply water for irrigation, communities and industry.

Several irrigation districts depend on the Belly River as a water source, including Magrath, Mountain View, Raymond, St. Mary River, Taber and United Irrigation.

RCMP warns Fort Macleod residents of grandparent scam

FRANK MCTIGHE
GAZETTE EDITOR

The RCMP last week issued a warning about a grandparent scam to residents of Fort Macleod and three other southern Alberta towns.

The RCMP's Southern Alberta District Crime Reduction Unit is investigating numerous complaints involving the grandparent scam.

The warning to people in southern Alberta — specifically Fort Macleod,

Cardston, Vulcan and Claresholm — is because the victims are asked to meet the scammers at a bank in Lethbridge.

"RCMP have arrested one person for this scheme, however, they believe there are more involved and are continuing to investigate," public information officer, Cpl. Gina Slaney said in a news release.

The scams often involve a phone call to the victim claiming a loved one is in trouble with the court or law enforcement and a payment is needed to help them.

The suspects will pretend to be a police officer, a judge, or a family member, usually asking for cash.

The scammers also ask for payment in gift cards, bitcoin, or e-transfers.

RCMP stressed the following:

- Bail is always paid in person at a courthouse or correctional center.

- Never send money to anyone you don't know.

- If a person claims to be a police officer or judge, call that police service or court-

house directly to confirm the situation.

Police and the courts will never demand cash be delivered in person or mailed.

- Never give out personal information over the phone or on-line to someone you don't know.

The police or courts will not ask for personal information over the phone.

If you have fallen victim to this or any other scam, call the local RCMP, as well as the Canadian Anti-Fraud Centre at 1-888-495-8501.



TOWN OFFICE
G.R. DAVIS ADMINISTRATION BUILDING
 410 20TH STREET, FORT MACLEOD, AB T0L 0Z0

www.fortmacleod.com

403-553-4425

admin@fortmacleod.com

TOWN COUNCIL MEETING DATES

Council Chambers

G.R. Davis Administration Building 410 20th Street | Fort Macleod, AB

F&I COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE
 Wednesday, Oct. 1 | 12 noon

REGULAR COUNCIL MEETING
 Monday, Oct. 14 | 7 p.m.

MUNICIPAL ELECTION
 Monday, Oct. 20

COUNCIL ORIENTATION & TRAINING
 Thursday, Oct. 30



Town of Fort Macleod
Public Library

264 24th Street | Fort Macleod, AB

403-553-3880

help@fortmacleodlibrary.ca

ARMCHAIR TRAVELLER with Randi Jo Amasio
THURSDAY, SEPT. 25 | 6:30 P.M.
 A trip to South Africa

WE ARE HIRING!
The Town of Fort Macleod Library
is currently seeking to fill a
Part-time Saturday Library Clerk
More information available at the library.



PROCLAMATION

DEVELOPMENT OFFICERS WEEK

September 23-26, 2025

*R.2025.240 Town Council proclaims the week of
 September 23-26, 2025, to be designated as
 Alberta Development Officers Week
 in the Town of Fort Macleod*

Both Council and Administration
 would like to acknowledge and honour
 the outstanding contributions of our
 Planning & Development Officer, Keli Sandford

IT IMPACTS YOU, GET INVOLVED!

APPLICATIONS FOR TOWN
 BOARDS, COMMITTEES &
 COMMISSIONS ARE OPEN!

Please submit your applications by Oct. 22, 2025, at 4:30 p.m.,
 to ensure Council consideration at the Organizational and
 Inaugural Council Meeting on Monday, Nov. 3, 2025.
 Application forms are available on our Web site or
 by scanning the QR code



For more information contact Executive Assistant Meranda Day Chief
 at the Town Office: 410 20th Street, G.R. Davis Administration Building
 403-553-4425 excassist@fortmacleod.com



TOWN OF FORT MACLEOD PUBLIC SKATING

Fort Macleod & District Sports Centre
 235 21st Street | Fort Macleod, AB

SUNDAYS | 2:45 p.m. - 3:45 p.m.

TUESDAYS | 3:30 p.m. - 4:30 p.m.

THURSDAYS | 3:30 p.m. - 4:30 p.m.

FRIDAYS | 3:30 p.m. - 4:30 p.m. & 5:45 p.m. - 6:45 p.m.



Please remember to always check
 the most recent schedule on the
 Web site to stay up to date.
 Open Ice Sessions can be booked
 directly through the Web site
www.fmfacilities.ca/arena



Fall 2025 COMMUNITY CLEAN UP

Friday, Sept. 26 | 9 a.m. - 6 p.m.

Saturday, Sept. 27 | 9 a.m. - 3 p.m.

Arena Parking Lot | 225 21st Street

Accumulated household waste

Electronic waste and tires will be collected by
 The Fort Macleod 4-H Beef Club

Metal will be collected by JBJ Auto Wrecking

Instructions: Follow provided directions for bin use.
 With exceptions, residents will unload their own waste.

Large/unacceptable items will be referred to the
 Willow Creek Landfill with up to 2 vouchers.

Vouchers available at Town Office from Sept. 2 to Sept. 26

Valid only from Sept. 25 to Oct. 2

CONTACT THE TOWN OFFICE FOR MORE INFORMATION



Photo by Frank McTighe

Alberta Institute for Wildlife Conservation community engagement co-ordinator Alex Kellington displays an owl wing.

Alberta institute cares for injured wildlife

FRANK MCTIGHE
GAZETTE EDITOR

Wildlife in this province get a second chance at a healthy life, thanks to the Alberta Institute for Wildlife Conservation.

The institute near Madden takes in from 1,000 to 2,000 injured animals each year.

"We do want them to get healthy again," said Alex Kellington, community engagement co-ordinator for the institute.

Kellington was at Fort Macleod Library on Thursday as part of the Alberta Culture Days celebration.

Kellington told the audience about the work of the institute on its 16-acre location near Madden, northwest of Calgary.

The presentation included a look at Alberta's official mammal, the bighorn sheep.

Kellington said the institute, which was established in 1993, cares for a variety of wild animals, from deer to owls, and from geese to bear cubs.

The animals that come to the institute are treated for their injuries, nursed to full health, and released back into the wild.

The institute is a registered charity and non-profit organization, and is an accredited vet clinic through the Alberta Veterinary Medical Association.

Since its establishment in 1993, the institute has taken in more than 38,000 animals.

Kellington said the institute has already taken in more than 1,800 injured animals this year, with three months yet to go.

The Alberta Institute for Wildlife Conservation is open year-round and staffed by both full- and



Photo by Frank McTighe

Alberta Institute for Wildlife Conservation community engagement co-ordinator Alex Kellington shows a white-tail deer antler with a bighorn sheep horn.

part-time employees.

More than 145 volunteers also support the work of the institute.

The institute was first incorporated in 1993 as Rockyview Wildlife Recovery and in 2004 changed its name to Alberta Institute for Wildlife Conservation.

The institute's first patient, admitted in 1994, was a red-tailed hawk with a broken bone in its wing.

In addition to accepting injured animals brought by people, the institute has

responded to oil spills.

The institute in 2015 published a children's book titled *Scared Skunk*.

In addition to treating and rehabilitating injured wildlife, the institute also works to educate the public about the animals.

On Thursday, Kellington carried out that work by presenting on the bighorn sheep.

The institute does not offer in-person tours, but those interested can take a virtual tour at www.aiwc.ca.



Thank You, Fort Macleod!

The Fort Macleod & District Chamber of Commerce would like to extend a heartfelt thank you to everyone who participated in this year's Taste of Fort Macleod. With 21 incredible vendors and approximately 550 attendees, the evening was truly a celebration of local flavour, talent, and community spirit.

A special thank you goes out to our generous sponsors:

GOLD SPONSORS

• Westco Construction • Scougall Motors • Real Estate Centre • Energy Smart
• GulikerVis Real Estate Group • ATB Financial

SILVER SPONSORS

• MA Catering Company Ltd. • Avail CPA • Davis Dodge • Twisted Hummingbird

BRONZE SPONSORS

• Community Futures • Huckvale LLP • Fort Macleod Agencies
• UFA — L M Petroleum • Wild 95.5 & B93 • Jon's Independent Grocer
• Glacier Equipment • Town of Fort Macleod
• Alberta Hardware • Alberta Firearms • Crazy Stitch

VENDORS

To our amazing vendors, thank you for showcasing your products and services with such enthusiasm:

• Oldman River Brewing • Alberta Whisky Cakes • Crystal Springs Cheese
• Durand Financial • Next Home & Garden • Structural Truss Systems
• Vanev Livestock/Macleod Trail Cattle • Cookie Crimes Ice Creamery
• MA Catering Company Ltd. • Homestead Bakeshop • Stronghold Brewing Co.
• Lost Things Distillery • The Empress Theatre • The Fort Museum
• The Baked Aussie • Dutch Grill • Forma Steel • The Penalty Box
• Brandi's Salsa • MNP • Italian Table & Prime Catering

CONGRATULATIONS TO OUR BBQ COOK-OFF WINNERS:

1st PLACE — Structural Truss Systems
2nd PLACE — Forma Steel

THANK YOU TO OUR JUDGES:

Chef Tyler Ivey, John Barlow, MP Foothills; Landon Schneider - Citizen of the Year;
and our fantastic Barbecue Cook-off emcee,
Chelsae Petrovic, MLA Livingstone-Macleod

WE'RE ALSO VERY GRATEFUL TO:

The Library for hosting the kid's supervised area;

Melanie Cervo with Photo Expressions for capturing the evening;

DJ & Emcee Adrian Stetski for keeping the vibe alive;

Wild 95.5 & B93.3 for sending Carter and the Summer Fun Cruiser;

The Welcome Mat for providing access to washrooms;

Anthony Burdett, Mike Bourassa, and the F.P. Walshe High School Volleyball Team
for set-up and take-down of tables and chairs;

Big Sky Tent Rentals for the white tents;

Davis Dodge for tent set-up and takedown;

The Town of Fort Macleod for cleaning the street and your ongoing support;

Main Street businesses for providing power to our vendors;

Blackstar Security and the RCMP for keeping the event safe

ATB Financial volunteers — Matt, Kyle, and Suzy Magallanes

— for working the entrance, managing waste and water

Volunteers: Mack Marchbank, Heather Donahue, John Guliker, Shayla Farough,
Desiray Vandervalk, Angela Martin — your time and efforts made a big difference!

Finally, thank you to all who attended — community members, businesses, and visitors — for making Taste of Fort Macleod 2025 another unforgettable evening.

With gratitude, The Taste Committee

Angela Martin, Mike Bourassa, Heather Donahue, Shayla Farough,
John Guliker, Suzy Magallanes, Desiray Vandervalk and Ashley Tebbutt

MARK YOUR CALENDARS FOR NEXT YEAR!

HISTORIC MAIN STREET FORT MACLEOD | 5:00 P.M. - 9:00 P.M.

SEPTEMBER 10, 2026

GAZETTE OPINION

We are all Fort Macleod

Fort Macleod is always strongest when the community comes together for a common cause. We can accomplish much as individuals certainly, but when our town and district's talented and driven individuals work together, there is no end to what can happen to benefit our community.

The latest example is the effort by local businesses who came together to donate their time, equipment and manpower to build an extension of Fort Macleod's growing paved pathway system. In this case it was a nearly one-kilometre path along Lyndon Road from the viewing spot along the westbound one-way to Fort Macleod Golf Club.

This initiative was driven by the business owners themselves, in co-operation with the Town of Fort Macleod and its staff. No one had to do this, but the companies were willing to get involved in a project that will benefit present and future residents and visitors for years to come.

The paved pathways in town ensure that everyone can get out and exercise, and enjoy the scenic beauty of the Oldman River and the wilderness park. The pavement makes it safe and convenient for people with mobility issues or who use wheelchairs.

Congratulations to the businesses and people of Fort Macleod and district on their willingness to work together for the benefit of the entire community. We are all Fort Macleod.

Democracy at work

The democratic process is alive and well in Fort Macleod and southwestern Alberta.

We have to tip our hat to the many people who have put their names forward to serve on town council, school board and the MD of Willow Creek council.

Public service on elected councils and boards requires no small amount of courage and dedication to community service, and our community should be proud of, and thankful for, those who are willing to commit to that service for the next four years.

Now it is our turn to get involved.

In the weeks leading up to the Oct. 20 municipal election, it is our job to get to know those whose names will be on the ballot by reading the available information and taking in the election forum.

The candidates are willing to do their part, ready to make a four-year commitment to public service, so let's be sure to do ours by becoming informed, and getting out on Oct. 20 to vote.



Weapons an ambitious, creative film

WEAPONS — 4/5 14A

Some movies are all about the journey. Especially mystery flicks — generally speaking, once the Truth is Revealed, all the air gets let out of the tires. *Weapons* gives us one heck of a mystery, something so enticing and creepy it allowed this low-budget horror movie, inspired by Paul Thomas Anderson's *Magnolia* of all things, to make over \$100-million at the box office.

At 2:17 one morning, an entire classroom of kids across town all get out of bed and take off, whereabouts unknown. Parents and teachers and cops are confounded — why did this happen, and how, and more importantly, what does the one kid in the class who didn't run away know?

For over an hour, *Weapons* held me in its grip unlike most modern movies. Writer-director Zach Cregger wisely borrows from *Magnolia* most obviously by focusing on his wide cast of characters — the film is divided into chapters, first focusing on the confused

teacher, then an angry parent, etc. This mosaic approach (which also drifts forward and backward in time) keeps us involved in a way most horror movies (or any movie, really) don't usually have the patience to do.

In fact, I'd argue this first hour is dang near perfect. The writing and performances are spot-on, the tension palpable, and the couple of quick "Boo!" scares are so effective I may have loudly shouted a nasty bit of profanity both times at my basement TV while leaping out of my couch. Unfortunately, like so many mysteries...the resolution is a bit of a disappointment, and what's worse, *Weapons* unwisely tells us

who and what is behind this disturbing phenomenon with 40 minutes left, and by the end all the tension had mostly dissipated for me.

Regardless, I don't want to poo-poo this flick too much; any filmmaker who openly takes inspiration from *Magnolia*, an all-time Top Five film for me, is clearly showing way more ambition and creativity than we usually see these days. The suffocating look and feel of the flick is so well done, and every single actor (including Amy Madigan, almost unrecognizable since her *Field of Dreams* days) is on fire. I just kind of wish there was a little less 'splainin' to do, because the more we learn, the less scared we get.

Weapons is available to purchase digitally on YouTube, Apple, Prime, and Google Play. Its home video release is Oct. 14.

(Riley Webster is the local author of *Movies of the 90s*, a review compendium available on the Friesen Press Store.)

MOVIE MATTERS



Riley Webster

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Responsible use of water needed

The Editor:

I am writing to express my concern about the proposed changes to Fort Macleod's water rates.

While I understand the importance of water conservation, this plan seems unfair to residents who take pride in maintaining their properties and yards.

Unsightly properties that aren't tended to typically face only a warning; yet a maintained yard improves the whole neighborhood. When lawns die or weeds take over, everyone notices.

Families and seniors will be affected the most. Parents who want their children to play on green grass, and seniors who enjoy planting vegetables, flowers, or keeping a tidy lawn, will face higher utility bills.

At a time when prices are rising everywhere, it would be encouraging to find a solution that encourages responsible water use without punishing those who help keep Fort Macleod looking its best.

Bryce Meldrum
Fort Macleod

Build Canada Homes right for Canadians

The Editor:

The federal government is hoping Build Canada Homes can both increase housing starts while building an "entirely new housing industry."

If this is the goal, there must be a clear focus on building homes that are affordable to live in as well as build, use low-carbon Canadian materials, are

EV-ready, and keep families comfortable in Canada's rapidly changing climate.

Build Canada Homes intends to build affordable housing for Canadian families, but affordability should be understood broadly and over the long term.

New homes should help families unlock cost savings from clean energy, for example by making all new homes EV-ready, so that families can plug in their cars and save on transportation costs.

Homes built with the help of this new federal agency should also be resilient and safe. With increasingly hot summers throughout the country, cooling is a necessity for new homes in most parts of the country.

The government should lead by example by equipping all new Build Canada Homes-supported homes with a heat pump (instead of a one-way air conditioning system), providing affordable cooling and heating.

It is encouraging to see Build Canada

Homes leveraged to support Canadian material producers in sectors like lumber and steel, but there is a clear opportunity to go further and support the long-term competitiveness of these sectors through the prioritization of lower-carbon building materials.

Aligning Build Canada Homes with existing greening government procurement standards can both support domestic industry while also providing a clear market signal that incentivizes low-carbon investments and innovation.

In developing the investment criteria for Build Canada Homes over the coming months, the federal government should consider how these homes can be built to be safe, comfortable, and affordable in the long run, and in a manner that also supports Canada's clean material industries.

Ollie Sheldrick-Moyle
Clean Energy Canada



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FROM PAST ISSUES

140 Years

September 22, 1885, The Macleod Gazette — On Wednesday last word was brought into town that Bob Whitney had been thrown from a mowing machine in a hay field and received severe injuries when he fell on the knives. He died on Friday.

D.W. Davis was named chairman at a meeting at the Macleod Hotel of a committee that will organize a reception for the Governor General.

Although there have been several frosts on the bottom lands near here, our minimum thermometer has not registered frost. The nearest it came was when it was a degree and a half above freezing.

The NWC & N Railway will officially be opened on Thursday during the visit of the Governor General.

130 Years

September 22, 1895, The Macleod Gazette — The attention of the post office department is directed to the requirement for a mail service between Lethbridge and Macleod. The railway is now within 28 miles of us, and we understand that there will be three mails a week to Lethbridge.

A solid boardwalk has been put down around the Macleod hotel. The wing on the south extension of the building is about finished.

120 Years

September 21, 1905, The Macleod Gazette — The high winds this week have caused much inconvenience to the telephone system in town.

The North West Mounted Police offer a first prize of \$35 and a second prize of \$15 for the best saddle horses suitable for police purposes at the Macleod and Pincher Creek fairs and will buy the animals for up to \$125 apiece.

110 Years

September 16, 1915, The Macleod Spectator — At a meeting of the local school board the principal issue dealt with was that of a few children whose parents were of Catholic faith attending the public school but the property taxes of \$150 were being assessed to the separate school. A motion to charge all children living outside the district irrespective of religion four cents a day, was carried with only one dissenting vote.

Alterations are under way at the NWMP barracks No. 1 guard room, where wooden cells are being replaced by steel cells and new floors laid.

The Department of Agriculture made arrangements with military authorities to extend for one month the leave of soldiers during the harvest season.

100 Years

September 17, 1925, The Macleod Times — Leo Noel opened a billiard and pool hall with the Rex Barber Shop, formerly occupied by H.H. Young.

The congregation of Christ Church Anglican learned their minister, Rev. W.J. Merrick, was to leave for his new charge at St. Luther's Church in Red Deer, and that Rev. G. McComas of that centre was to come to Macleod.

C.P. McGladdery, J. Grier and G. Pollard brought in a total of 42 ducks and partridges. Arthur Young, J. Ridley and T.B. Armstrong had a total of 38 birds.

90 Years

September 19, 1935, The Macleod Gazette — As the result of a motor accident which befell Mr. and Mrs. Thomas Long, whose farm was situated about 12 miles south of town, the couple was found dead by a neighbour. Their three-year-old son was alive and uninjured.

Officers for the Presbyterian Young People's Society were president Helen Allan and vice-president Jack Huntley.



Crichton Studio photo
Effie McRory was born in Sydenham, Ont. in 1880 and came west with her parents in 1897. She married Arthur Young on Nov. 30, 1898.

80 Years

September 13, 1945, The Macleod Gazette — Maj. Jim Lambert and Capt. Jim Greenwood, returned home following four years of service in the Canadian army overseas. Returning home after five years of service were Pte. George Allan and Gunners Red Kennedy and Tubby Kennedy.

A Macleod Youth Organization was formed by Roy McGregor and Walter Hanrahan supported by J. Roger Hunt. More than 100 young people attended the organizational meeting.

70 Years

September 22, 1955, The Macleod Gazette — William Roy resigned as engineer for the Town of Macleod. He will take up a position as streets and roadways engineer with the City of Lethbridge.

Elsie Milne was installed as guardian of Job's Daughters.

The Walter Callow Coach conveyed a number of shut-ins from the hospital and some citizens to Waterton.

60 Years

September 16, 1965, The Macleod Gazette — Allen Trotter suffered multiple injuries and broken bones in an accident when the Caterpillar tractor he was using to remove soil at a site north of town rolled down an embankment.

A water line was being laid by the Town of Granum for the skating rink which was being moved to a newer site. It was planned to have the site hard-surfaced for tennis and other summer sports.

Harvest progress was slow due to cool wet weather.

50 Years

September 18, 1975, The Macleod Gazette — Jack, Jerri and Joy Duce of Granum were taking part in a movie being filmed at Morley. Principal stars in the production were Paul Newman, Burt Lancaster and Geraldine Chaplin.

A fire in a wheat field destroyed a three-ton truck partially loaded with wheat, and a few acres of uncut grain. Barry Welsh, with a large tractor and plow, made a fire guard largely responsible for stopping further damage.

The new and ultra-modern Fort Macleod Auction Market opened.

40 Years

September 18, 1985, The Macleod Gazette — Fort Macleod may be able to install windmills to generate electricity if the provincial Small Power Producers Association can gain legislative changes.

Oil recycling came to Fort Macleod courtesy of the Odd Fellows lodge, the town and Alberta Environment. The Odd Fellows set up a 200-gallon tank as a drop across the intersection from the Foothills Detox. Proceeds from the sale of used oil will go to the Odd Fellows.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Immigration needs immediate reform

The Editor:

Conservatives have uncovered the cost of Mark Carney's broken immigration system for some groups of foreign nationals receiving taxpayer-funded health care under the Interim Federal Health Program.

Under the Liberals, the program expanded to include services that many Canadians don't receive or have to pay for themselves, including pharmaceuticals, vision care, counselling, assistive devices, home care, nursing homes, physiotherapy and occupational speech therapy.

This type of coverage has increased to \$456-million in 2024, a 1,186 per cent increase since 2016.

Canadians are a compassionate people, but it is really fair for non-citizens to get health care coverage that Canadians themselves pay for and do not receive?

Canadian taxpayers have also seen a 376 per cent increase in the total number of user claims and a staggering 1,101 per cent increase in the amounts reimbursed for this program under the Liberals.

Mark Carney and the Liberals have spent nearly a billion dollars in the past year on Interim Federal Health Program claims — at a time when housing, jobs, and health care are under enormous strain thanks to their broken immigration system.

This is on top of the \$1.1-billion they have spent on hotels for asylum seekers and the \$1.5-billion they have given to provinces for refugees.

Canadians are struggling with the Liberal cost of living crisis, the Liberal job-loss crisis, the Liberal crime crisis and, now, we are seeing the further cost of the Liberal immigration crisis, especially on health care and housing.

Canadians have been paying into our health care system for their entire lives. Our seniors deserve to reap the rewards of that hard work by getting access to health care when they need it.

Instead, our health care system is already overwhelmed and over-capacity, and Canadian seniors can't get the treatment they need.

This is unsustainable. Canadians are proud to be a caring people, but unvalidated asylum seekers should not get better benefits than Canadians do. Immediate reform is needed.

Michelle Rempel Garner
Conservative Shadow
Minister for Immigration

Carbon price rollback reveals flawed logic

The Editor:

We condemn the move by Alberta to weaken one of the few remaining programs in place that is actually slowing the increase in emissions from the province.

Alberta needs to pull its weight when it comes to fighting climate change and if it won't the federal government must step in.

It's ironic that the premier has made this move in the midst of attempting to negotiate a new "grand bargain."

Last time, the deal was a pipeline in exchange for support for carbon pricing. Now it's carbon capture in exchange for yet another pipeline.

Neither of these deals made sense from a climate pollution perspective.

But, more troubling, is that the premier and the oil companies clearly don't take these "bargains" seriously and will always seek to destroy any efforts to make the polluter pay.

The federal government must step in and impose its industrial carbon pricing regime in Alberta and lay out a plan to strengthen that system.

Industrial carbon pricing is one of most effective emissions reduction policies in Canada and it can do more of the heavy lifting.

The federal government must also recommit to implementing the oil and gas emissions cap.

The federal government must make clear to premiers, to industry and the public that this country remains committed to reducing

climate change causing pollution.

The prime minister's lack of clarity on this topic and seeming openness to abandon, pause and revisit climate action has led some premiers and the fossil fuel industry to think that it's open season on climate policy.

It's time to stem the bleeding. We need a climate plan from our federal government and a clear commitment that Canada intends to keep its international obligations under the Paris Accord.

Keith Brooks
Programs Director
Environmental Defence

Government must support teachers

The Editor:

Albertans deserve a government that supports teachers, parents and most of all, students. Instead, our education system has the lowest funding per student in Canada.

So, what's the government doing with the precious dollars they have? They're spending it on an advertising campaign to vilify teachers.

Let's get serious. That's a terrible waste of money that could be spent on reducing class sizes, raising per student funding and fairly compensating our excellent teachers.

Alberta used to have the best education system in the world. But Danielle Smith and her heavy-handed and controlling UCP government have brought forward no solutions to address classroom conditions.

They have made it perfectly clear that funding our students at the lowest level in the country, banning books and preventing girls from playing sports are their priorities.

Both parties are back at the bargaining table where they should be. Parents want to see the government make a fair deal to prioritize students and make Alberta's education system the best in the world, again.

Amanda Chapman
NDP Shadow Minister of Education

Minister appreciates agricultural societies

The Editor:

Sept. 21 marked Agricultural Societies Day in Alberta, a chance to recognize and appreciate the hard work ag societies and their volunteers do, and the positive difference they make in our communities.

Alberta is home to 292 agricultural societies, the most in Canada.

Ag societies own or operate more than 1,000 different types of facilities and host more than 40,000 activities and events in our province every year.

These non-profit organizations are the backbone of many rural communities and have been for many decades.

In Alberta, 191 ag societies are 50 years or older and 27 of these are more than 100 years old. From rodeos and bench shows to educational programs and conferences, agricultural societies help their communities thrive. Ag societies also support major community facilities across Alberta, including community halls, rodeo grounds and campgrounds.

Our government is proud to continue its support through the Agricultural Societies Infrastructure Revitalization Program, which provided \$7.5 million in total grants for 106 projects over the last three years.

Through this program, we have helped improve and repair commercial kitchens, roofing, heating, and ventilation in ice rinks, horse riding arenas and more.

That's on top of the Agricultural Societies Grant Program, which provides \$11.5 million in stable operational funding every year.

Let's appreciate ag societies and the volunteers who dedicate time in their communities, making them excellent places to live, work and raise a family.

On behalf of all Albertans, I extend a sincere thank you to all of our ag societies and their thousands of volunteers for improving our agriculture sector and helping rural communities flourish.

RJ Sigurdson
Minister of Agriculture and Irrigation

FIRE DEPARTMENT FUNDS



The Fort Macleod Fire Department presented a \$1,000 donation Sept. 11 to Muscular Dystrophy Canada. From left: Eric Arnoldussen, Captain George Fox, Lieutenant John Mackintosh,

Deputy Chief Perry Fraser, Muscular Dystrophy Canada community fund-raising officer Kyle Knowles and his son Ari, Lisa Perry, Justin deLeeuw and Lieutenant Rein Noordegraaf.

Photo contributed

Assault case back in court Oct. 22

FRANK MCTIGHE
GAZETTE EDITOR

A man facing charges from an assault at a Fort Macleod restaurant will be in court next month.

An agent for defence lawyer Vincent Guinan appeared in Fort Macleod court of justice Wednesday via closed-circuit television to request an adjournment to Wednesday, Oct. 22.

"It's understood that a plea will be entered at that time," Brittany Hnatiuk said.

Crown prosecutor Mitchell Grimmer was not opposed to the adjournment.

Fort Macleod RCMP were called in the early morning hours of Feb. 25 to a report of an assault at the McDonald's restaurant in Fort Macleod.

RCMP were told an argument in the drive-

through lane escalated when a man entered the restaurant and tried to assault one of the employees.

The man left the restaurant but returned a second time holding a firearm.

Gabriel Rain Laboucan, of Stand Off, is charged with three counts of assault with a weapon.

Police also charged Laboucan with assault, unauthorized possession of a firearm, possession of a prohibited or restricted firearm with ammunition, and use of a firearm while committing an offence.

Laboucan also faces three charges of uttering threats to cause death or bodily harm.

The accused remains in custody at Lethbridge Correctional Centre.

Justice Eric Brooks agreed to the adjournment to Oct. 22.

Notice of Election and Requirements for Voter Identification

Local Authorities Election Act (Sections 12, 35, 46, 53)

Local Jurisdiction: The Municipal District of Willow Creek No. 26, Province of Alberta



Notice is hereby given that an election will be held for the filling of the following offices:

Office(s)	Number of Vacancies	Electoral Division Number
Councillor	1	Division No. 2
Councillor	1	Division No. 5

ELECTION DAY VOTING

will take place on the 20th day of October, 2025, between the hours of 10 a.m. and 8 p.m.

Voting Stations will be located at:

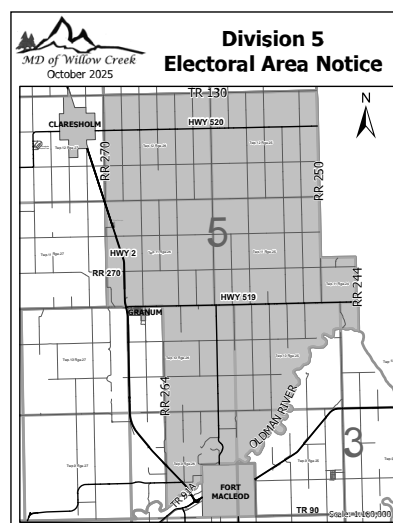
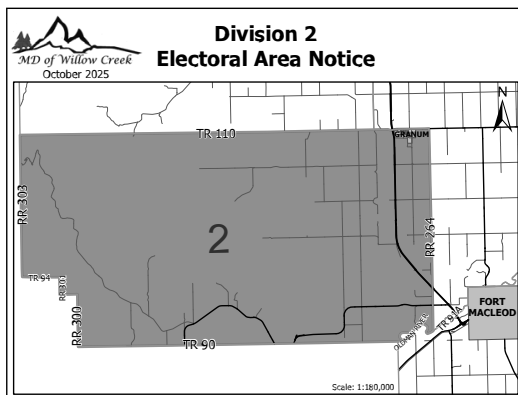
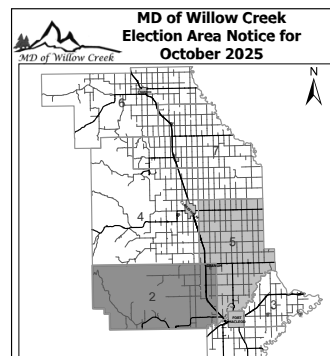
Granum Drop-In Centre – 306 Railway Avenue Granum, Alberta

AN ADVANCE VOTE

will take place on the 6th day of October, 2025 between the hours of 10 am and 8 pm.

Voting Stations will be located at:

Granum Drop-In Centre – 306 Railway Avenue Granum, Alberta



In order to vote, you must produce for inspection one or more of the acceptable forms of identification required by Section 53 of the Local Authorities Election Act.

Dated at the Municipal District of Willow Creek No. 26, in the Province of Alberta, this 23rd Day of September, 2025.

Derrick Krizsan, Returning Officer

Nominations sought for rural health plan awards

Nominations are now open for the 2026 Rhapsody Awards honouring exceptional health care professionals and teams making a difference in rural Alberta.

Presented by the Rural Health Professionals Action Plan, the Rhapsody Awards recognize excellence in two categories:

- The Rhapsody Rural Physician Award celebrates rural physicians who go above and beyond through outstanding medical care and meaningful community involvement.
- The Rhapsody Health Care Heroes Award honours individuals or teams, including nurses, allied health professionals, who show exceptional commitment to rural health and wellness.

"Every year, we hear remarkable stories of dedication, compassion, and community connection from rural healthcare providers," said Tracy Sopkow, chief executive officer of the Rural Health Professionals Action Plan. "The Rhapsody Awards are our opportunity to celebrate those who keep rural healthcare strong — and to say thank you."

Nominations are open until Feb. 27.

Recipients are selected by an awards committee representing Alberta's rural north, central, and south zones.

First launched in 2002 to recognize rural physicians, the Rhapsody Awards expanded in 2018 to include all rural health care professionals and teams.

The name "Rhapsody" reflects the Rural Health Professionals Action Plan's broader mission to support rural attraction, integration, retention, and recognition.

For full details and to submit a nomination, visit RhPAP.ca/Rhapsody.



Photo by Frank McTighe

Range management specialist Barry Adams gave a presentation on rough fescue Thursday at the library.

Alberta's provincial grass vital for livestock, wildlife

FRANK MCTIGHE
GAZETTE EDITOR

On a night celebrating Alberta culture, the importance of native grasses was impressed upon an audience at Fort Macleod Library.

Range management specialist Barry Adams gave a presentation on rough fescue as part of the library's Alberta Culture Days celebration on Thursday.

Adams spoke with reverence of the importance of rough fescue, which was proclaimed Alberta's provincial grass in 2003, as he showed a slide of a field west of Stavelay.

"When you're looking at a field of rough fescue, it's kind of like looking at an old growth forest," Adams said. "We don't know how old some of these stands of rough fescue actually are."

Rough fescues are perennial bunch grasses that are very biodiverse and provide good forage for wildlife and livestock.

Adams said over thousands of years

bison would migrate over the plains in summer and back to the foothills and parklands in fall, grazing on rough fescue.

There are three species: Plains Rough Fescue, Foothills Rough Fescue, and Northern Rough Fescue.

Rough fescue has high spring protein and digestible carbohydrate content, and produces good yields as native hay.

Unlike many other grasses, plants cure on the stem and hence also provide good quality forage throughout fall and winter.

Adams said rangelands store significant amounts of carbon.

Foothills fescue, for example, can store 151 tonnes per hectare, while boreal forest can store 102 to 130 tonnes per hectare.

Dry mixed grass can store 47 tonnes of carbon per hectare, and mixed grass can store 76 tonnes per hectare.

Fescue grasslands are vital range for

wildlife and of great significance for the ranching industry but face threats from some human activities.

As a result, there is an emphasis on stewardship of rough fescue in order to sustain this important part of Alberta's history.

Adams concluded his presentation by directing people to the "Celebrating Rangelands: Connecting Research to On-Ranch Management" event Nov. 13 at Claresholm Community Centre.

The event, which runs from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m., includes talks on topics such as natural fencing, carbon and grazing, rotational grazing, drought resilience and range management history.

Sponsors include the MD of Willow Creek, University of Alberta, the Foothills Forage and Grazing Association, the government of Alberta, the MD of Ranchlands and Regenerative Alberta.

Herbalists discuss healing properties of local plants

FRANK MCTIGHE
GAZETTE EDITOR

Chelsie Wolff's career die was cast when she discovered the natural healing power of plantain.

"Plantain is my origin story as to why I wanted to become a herbalist," Wolff said during her presentation Thursday on medicinal plants.

A guest speaker during Fort Macleod Library's Alberta Culture Days event, Wolff told how her oldest daughter Abby happened upon a patch of stinging nettle when she was about two years old.

"It stings bad," Wolff said of her daughter's reaction to stinging nettle, so named because its leaves inject chemicals to cause a stinging sensation. "She was crying and screaming and really upset."

Wolff's husband's grandmother, who was along on the walk, quickly found the location of the stinging nettle, and nearby found the antidote — plantain.

She told Wolff that in nature, the cure always grows by the problem.

"That was my 'Aha!' moment," Wolff said.

She chewed the plantain into a paste and smeared on the young girl's infected areas.

"She quit crying immediately," Wolff said. "Immediately she was soothed."

In about 20 minutes the welts and redness caused by the stinging nettle was gone.

Wolff was fascinated by the natural knowledge and so began her path as a herbalist.

"I really wanted to learn more about it," said Wolff, who runs Horizon Herbs in Fort Macleod.

Wolff and Raine Sillito gave a presentation at the library on local

plants that have healing properties.

"Some of these are ones that you've probably seen along the river bottom or in your yards," Wolff said.

Wolff and Sillito stressed their presentation was for information purposes only.

"Please be very careful when you go out yourself and want to harvest," Wolff said.

They promoted the five per cent system for those who plan to harvest — taking one of 20 — to protect the ecosystem.

Wolff stressed that not every plant is right for every body.

"Remember that every body is unique," Wolff said, inviting people to visit Horizon Herbs to ask questions and discuss plants with medicinal properties.

The plants Wolff and Sillito discussed included plantain, mullein, raspberry, wolf willow, licorice, horsetail, chamomile, choke cherry, clover and poplar.



Chelsie Wolff

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**ALBERTA DEVELOPMENT
OFFICERS WEEK
SEPTEMBER 23 - 26, 2025**

PROCLAMATION

WHEREAS, A Development Officer is a current planning and development specialist with knowledge in current legislation, policy and bylaws, systems and technical requirements for physical development within communities in the Province of Alberta. A Development Officer enforces and administers land use regulations and policies on behalf of a municipality and is designated to the position of Development Authority by the municipality as defined by the Municipal Government Act, RSA 2000, Chapter M-26.

WHEREAS, the Alberta Development Officers Association, representing professional Development Officers in Alberta, endorses Alberta Development Officers Week to recognize sound development and planning practices and the contribution made by Development Officers to the quality of development within our communities and environment; and,

WHEREAS, Alberta Development Officers Week helps us to publicly recognize the work of our municipal colleagues in planning and development for the improvement of the Municipality; and,

WHEREAS, we recognize Development Officers and their commitment to public service; and,

NOW, THEREFORE, The Council of Willow Creek No. 26 do hereby proclaim the week of September 23-26, 2025 to be designated as Alberta Development Officers Week in the Municipal District of Willow Creek No. 26.

Proclaimed this 10th Day of September, 2025



MD of Willow Creek



Reeve

Community effort for pathway project

FRANK MCTIGHE
GAZETTE EDITOR

Fort Macleod continues to build a strong community, one step at a time.

The latest example was Thursday when a group of businesses donated equipment and manpower to start work on a new pathway.

"It takes a community to build a community," Mayor Brent Feyter said Wednesday ahead of the work carried out Thursday.

The volunteer crew came together Thursday to start construction of a nearly one-kilometre paved pathway along Lyndon Road.

The pathway to Fort Macleod Golf Course from the River Valley Wilderness Park viewing point just off the westbound one-way is an example of community collaboration.

Jason Vanee of Westco Construction said business owners began discussing ways in which they could contribute to Fort Macleod's ongoing development.

They had taken note of the work being done by the Town of Fort Macleod to improve community amenities and infrastructure.

"They're really impressed with what the town and council have been doing," Vanee said at the project's staging area on Lyndon Road, near 21st Street.

The Town of Fort Macleod has worked to develop a more connected community for pedestrians by expanding and improving the pathway system.

The town in 2023 completed paving of a 1.2-kilometre stretch of pathway along 30th Street.

Then in 2024 a 1.3-kilometre stretch of pathway was paved to the historic old fort site, from the Mackenzie bridge.

That work provided residents with 2.5 kilometres of paved pathway along the south side of the Oldman River.



Photo contributed

The Town of Fort Macleod and local businesses are joining forces to extend the pathway system along Lyndon Road to the Fort Macleod Golf Club. Taking part in a photo opportunity were, from left: Jason Vanee of Westco Construction; Kevin Vandenheuvel of Milestone Excavating;

Alex Van Ee of Lexcon Trenching and Excavating; Mayor Brent Feyter; Town of Fort Macleod chief administrative officer Anthony Burdett; Dave Boot of DW Dirtworks; Coun. Jim Monteith; town facilities foreman Thys Holwerda; and town director of operations Brennan Orr.

The local businesses began discussions with the town on a project and settled on paving another stretch of the town's pathway system.

The work that began Thursday extends the pathway from the Lyndon Road viewing point to the golf course, adding another one kilometre of trail.

An impressive list of businesses stepped up to sponsor the project:

- BOA — All surveying.
- Westco Construction: — a five-ton excavator with wrist bucket and operator; a skid steer with operator; compaction equipment; flag person; site supervisor; safety/spotter person; labour; videographer; all food and drink.
- Milestone Excavating — excavator with operator; skid steer with operator.
- DW Dirtworks — excavator with operator; truck and pup to haul strippings.
- Lexcon Trenching — excavator with operator; backhoe with operator.



Photo by Frank McTighe

Mayor Brent Feyter and Jason Vanee of Westco Construction discuss the pathway project as Dave Boot operates an excavator.

- Sling Master — sling truck with operator.
- Hurlburt Rock Products — truck and pup to haul strippings; supply three-quarter

inch road gravel.

- Mountain View Precast — supply precast bridge.

Town of Fort Macleod director of operations Brennan Orr said

quotes for paving had been received and were being reviewed last week.

The project is to be completed before the end of the year.

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Trekking the Grand Canyon as a fund-raiser for the A-T Children's Project is next for the Olive family. Photo contributed

Grand Canyon trek aids A-T Children's Project

CRYSTAL OLIVE

GAZETTE CONTRIBUTOR

You tell yourself you can do hard things, but do you really believe it? My name is Crystal Olive and I am local to Fort Macleod and I run to raise awareness for my son Alex who is 15 years old living with a rare genetic disease called Ataxia Telangiectasia, or A-T for short.

A-T is a rare genetic disease that causes loss of motor control, high rates of cancer, immune deficiencies, and lung complications.

Most kids with this disease start off walking, then progress to a walker and then a wheelchair by the age of 10.

Most people with A-T don't survive their twenties because of complications of pneumonia and cancer.

On Sept. 5, I set out to complete 100 kilometres at the Lost Soul Ultra in Lethbridge.

This fully exposed course is a 50-kilometre loop that takes place in the River Valley in Lethbridge taking you over 16 significant hills while gaining about 1,100 meters a loop.

There are three main aid stations along the course to refuel and see your crew.

The race was going perfectly until about 70 kilometres in when I developed severe blisters on both my big toes because of the steep descent on the coulee walls.

I came into the aid station telling my crew, "It's okay to struggle as long as I find joy in it." This might sound strange to most people but when you have a child with a rare disease this becomes the theme of your every day life.

You watch your child struggle with everyday tasks that most people take for granted like walking, feeding themselves, and



The Olive family and their team at the finish of the 100-kilometre Lost Soul Ultra in Lethbridge. Photo contributed

sometimes just opening a door.

You watch their friends move on and hit milestones that they never will simply because they physically can't.

Yet despite Alex's challenges he simply finds the joy in what he can do. So, I take that attitude in my race knowing at some point it will physically and mentally break me down but when I can still find joy in what I am doing I can overcome anything.

I would finish my first 100 kilometre race in 17:24, placing 10th among females and 32nd out of 116 registered racers.

You would think that running 100-kilometres would be the "A" race of my season but in fact it was just a big training day for the main event which is hiking the Grand Canyon with Alex in October.

More than five million people visit the Grand Canyon every year. Less than 10 per cent of visitors step one foot below the rim of the canyon and less than one per cent of people make it to the bottom and back.

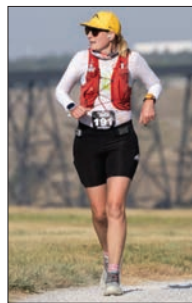
After a full year of training Rob, Clark, and myself will be hiking the Grand Canyon down the Bright Angel Trail to the Colorado river at the bottom.

This trail is 25.4 kilometres with 1,372 meters of elevation gain.

To make it down there for an abled person with full gear requires a lot of physical conditioning.

To attempt this with Alex in his Jolette adaptive hiking chair and just three people is considered impossible.

This is our next challenge and we will be doing this to raise awareness and funds for the A-T



Crystal Olive running the 100-kilometre Lost Soul Ultra. Photo contributed

Children's Project.

To support our fund-raiser please consider making a small donation to <http://atcp.org/event/alexas-rmy-2025/>.

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Premier pushes for wildfire mitigation

GEORGE LEE
THE MACLEOD GAZETTE
LOCAL JOURNALISM INITIATIVE

Less wildfire damage throughout the province and improved access to the great outdoors feature prominently in Danielle Smith's renewed vision for Alberta.

The premier issued new marching orders last week to Forestry and Parks Minister Todd Loewen, directing him to expand efforts to prevent wildfires and reduce their effects. One bullet point is that the minister seek a wildfire agreement with the federal government.

Loewen told *The Macleod Gazette* that wildfire fighting and prevention are "incredibly important to Albertans." So is more access to public lands in a sustainable way.

"Those two things encompass a lot of what's in the mandate letter, and I think they really resonate well with Albertans," said Loewen, the member for Central Peace-Notley in the province's northwest.

Loewen was one of four ministers to receive new mandate letters on Sept. 17. The other affected ministries are jobs, economy, trade and immigration; tourism and sport; and arts, culture and status of women.

The letters come as MLAs prepare to return to the legislature for the fall sitting on Oct. 23.

Loewen is directed to complete a government

plan to advance active forestry management techniques, the mandate letter says. The plan should "maintain the health and biodiversity of Alberta's forests and provide nature-based solutions for carbon sequestration."

The premier calls on Loewen to work on an agreement with the federal government to improve wildfire mitigation across federal lands.

Smith wants the agreement to have a "particular focus" on a strategy for prevention management and response at three national parks in Alberta — Jasper and Banff in the Rocky Mountains, and Waterton on the southern border of the province along the eastern slopes.

Two parks surround Alberta municipalities, Loewen noted, which underlines the need for co-operation. "We want to make sure that we do everything we can to protect (the communities), and we have to work with Parks Canada to get the job done," Loewen said.

Also worth noting: Parks Canada doesn't have "quite as much wildfire expertise as we do, because we fight a lot more wildfires than they do."

The letter emphasizes other areas of wildfire mitigation and risk reduction, like "proactive and strategic" forest harvesting and public education. Smith calls for expansion of the



A toddler rides in bundled comfort on his father's back in Kananaskis Country. Making sure Albertans and visitors of all ages experience the outdoors is a critical part of his work, says Forestry and Parks Minister Todd Loewen.

Photo by Alamy

FireSmart program, which shares tools and knowledge with communities, and expansion of a program that funds the creation of fireguards.

When the public thinks of wildfire mitigation,

prescribed and controlled burns often come to mind. But the job is more varied and complicated than that, Loewen said, particularly because prescribed burns are riskier than they once were.

"When I became minister, I said, okay, we have to do more controlled burns to see if we can reduce the amount of fuel," Loewen said.

"But then you're also destroying habitat. And it didn't take long to realize, especially with the fire seasons we've had over the last three years, that the window of opportunity is very small because you don't want the fire to escape its boundaries."

Mechanical clearing of trees is more the standard today. Another strategy is hazardous fuel reduction, which removes highly volatile trees like spruce and pine from areas that put communities at risk.

"Every wildfire that's burned down a community in Alberta has been a Type 5 wildfire — a treetop-to-treetop fire," said Loewen.

The premier wants Loewen to continue developing trails and adding campsites. He's been directed to keep working on a plan to perhaps triple the number of provincially built campsites to over 900 by 2033.

Not counting the back country, the government has about 250 campsites today. If targets are hit, the plan would add 300 by 2027.

"We want people to enjoy our parks," said Loewen. "I kind of joke about this, but I think there are some people out there who just want us to view our parks

with binoculars from a distance, and I don't think that's what people want."

Caring about the wilderness usually comes from being in it. "Out of touch, out of mind," said Loewen.

In a news release, the UCP government characterized the updated mandates as "focused on growing Alberta's economy, improving trade and creating jobs."

Ticking that box in Loewen's letter is a push for value-added forestry projects. Smith wants him to work with Joseph Schow, the minister of jobs, economy, trade and immigration, to develop a proposal for incentives akin to the existing agri-food tax credit.

The more trees that get turned into products in Alberta, the greater the economic benefit derived from logging, Loewen said.

The mandate letter also identifies free enterprise as having a role in making public lands more accessible.

Loewen is directed to "continue the expansion of trails, campsites and other public land use opportunities by Alberta entrepreneurs and other organizations," his mandate letter says.

The expansion should include improvements to infrastructure and services in Kananaskis, Canmore, Waiparous Creek, Crownst Pass and "other high-traffic recreational areas."

Province, rural Alberta poised to work together

GEORGE LEE
THE MACLEOD GAZETTE
LOCAL JOURNALISM INITIATIVE

Alberta's rural municipalities appear to be forging an improved dialogue with the provincial government, despite past clashes over how much and when they're consulted.

Recent interviews with key players suggest that they're ready to work together and hear each other out on major issues — things like funding levels for roads, bridges and other infrastructure, and a new system to deal with accusations of poor councillor conduct.

Their comments follow Dan Williams becoming minister of municipal affairs in May, when he was shuffled from mental health and addiction.

Williams toured central and southern Alberta during the summer to meet with elected and unelected leaders from more than 40 municipalities.

Kara Westerlund, president of the Rural Municipalities of Alberta, said she's glad the minister took to Alberta's highways and byways. Williams is "incredibly approachable" for her and the association's member municipalities, she said.

"I hope he does that every summer, and that he comes to break bread in our backyard to truly see who we are, how we live and what we have to contribute to the province and the country," said Westerlund, a councillor from west of Edmonton in Brazeau County.

The RMA has criticized the dome's recent record on legislation that affects how municipalities operate and govern. Often the association has said it was not properly consulted before bills were introduced and advanced. It also wants the province to tie up loose ends dangling from new laws.

The legislature is set to resume Oct. 23, after sittings over the last two years approved a raft of changes for municipal governments to contend with.

The province created provisions to order electorate votes on the removal of councillors who cabinet deems unable, unwilling or refusing to perform elected duties. The government can also revoke or revise by-laws that cabinet determines clash with provincial policy, contravene the Constitution, or exceed local scope or authority.

Municipal governments are no longer allowed to use electronic tabulators to count votes in elections, and they can no longer have their own codes of conduct.

Rules surrounding campaign finances and intermunicipal relationships have changed. So have the duties of key administrative staff, including chief administrative officers.

Not all the changes are controversial. For example, the UCP government has improved voter accessibility for people with disabilities and people displaced by wildfires.

But it's also moved towards creating a provincial police service. Although crime and police response times are an ongoing issue along roads less travelled, municipalities worry that the expertise and professionalism of the RCMP will be lost if the national service is pushed aside.

Funding levels and formulas for infrastructure continue to be inadequate for expansion and maintenance, the RMA says. The problem goes back two or three decades, Westerlund said.

The RMA — which represents 69 municipal jurisdictions that blanket more than 85 per cent of the province's landmass — estimates that an infrastructure deficit affecting its member municipalities has reached \$17.25-billion. Given current funding trends, the deficit will grow to more

than \$40-billion by 2028, the association predicts.

The roads and bridges portion alone of today's deficit is about \$14-billion, the RMA has calculated.

Devin Dreeschen, the minister of transportation and economic corridors, said he's "all ears" if municipalities have innovative ideas to fund the maintenance and expansion of roads, bridges, and water and waste-water infrastructure.

The government "loves working with the RMA and all the rural municipalities across the province, because they truly are what makes Alberta great," said Dreeschen, the member for Innisfail-Sylvan Lake.

"To make sure we have thriving rural communities is important," he said, noting that the resource sector operates in the countryside. "We obviously want to help as much as we can."

That desire is behind \$118-million in grants in the current budget to municipalities for water and waste water projects, he said, and some of the grant approvals address the added pressure of serving the resource industry.

"But demand is always greater than the dollars that we have available," Dreeschen stressed.

Williams, the member for Peace River, said relationships and attitudes are in the right place. The RMA's president has "an open mind, looking to try to find solutions while looking after the best interests of all of her members," the municipal affairs minister said.

"If you care about the ratepayers across every single county in the province, and I care about all the citizens of the province, then we're fighting for the same end. Starting from that position puts us to great advantage."

"No one's looking to dunk or score points in this relationship. We're looking to find productive solutions."

Williams continued: "Will there be

differences? Of course... I have an ultimate responsibility to make sure municipalities are run well. That's a different role than the RMA has as an advocacy body for the wide-ranging views of many, many municipalities."

Rural municipalities are "on the ground and on the frontlines," he said, meaning they can provide feedback he and the government need.

Seeking more money at every turn, however, won't work. That's especially true given the deficit situation the province is in and the desire to be "as fiscally prudent as we can be," Williams cautioned.

"But if it's all about finding common ground and finding innovative solutions and making sure that we prioritize the right things at the right time for municipalities, then that's where we can find a huge amount of forward movement."

Westerlund concurred that a rural perspective is important. "Sometimes it's easy to make decisions and have theories and suggestions in downtown Edmonton, sitting in the legislature," she said.

Provincial lawmakers need to "take a walk in our shoes to see what's actually happening and truly understand the direction that we're going in," she said. "If what you're trying to fix is not broken, why are we fixing it?"

Just after his rural tour, Williams said he was impressed with the entrepreneurial spirit and wealth of innovation demonstrated by community leaders.

Westerlund said she's "not surprised" that Williams hears about entrepreneurship and "the passion and the drive of rural Alberta."

She continued: "I eat and breathe it every day, and I couldn't be more proud of the people we have living on the rural landscape. They are resilient a bunch, and when push comes to shove, for every problem and every issue that we have, we have 10 or 15 solutions."



Kara Westerlund

GRANUM FOOD DRIVE



Granum school staff, students and community volunteers last week carried out the annual drive in support of the Granum food bank. Students dropped donation bags at the doors of hamlet residents on Sept. 15, and picked up the donations on Thursday. They delivered the food to the Granum Drop In Centre, where the food bank is housed, on Thursday, and were treated to juice and cookies.



Photos contributed

RCMP, CN Police urging caution around railways

The RCMP and CN Police last week urged people to prevent collisions with train.

Sept. 15-21 was Operation Lifesaver's Rail Safety Week.

In 2024 there were 35 reported collisions at railway crossings across Alberta. These collisions resulted in 12 fatalities.

"Being alert at all times at railroad crossings is critical to protecting yourself and anyone else in the vehicle," said Inspector Brian Jones of CN Police mountain division.

Sgt. Leigh Drinkwater of Alberta RCMP traffic services said collisions with trains are often preventable.

"By being aware of train tracks and staying cautious around trains, you can help avoid becoming a victim," Drinkwater said.

The police offered the following tips to change your train of thought:

Speed misperception

Because of their size, trains appear to be much farther away and travelling much slower than their actual speed. Don't be fooled.

If stuck on the tracks, exit your vehicle immediately and call the emergency number on the nearby blue sign.

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Trains can't stop quickly

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Any time is train time

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Accused facing child porn charges in court

FRANK MCTIGHE
GAZETTE EDITOR

The lawyer representing a Fort Macleod man facing child pornography charges was in court Wednesday to request an adjournment.

Colin Koerselman appeared in Fort Macleod court of justice via closed-circuit television to request a one-week adjournment.

Koerselman was only recently appointed by Legal Aid and needed time to review the disclosure provided by the Crown.

Justice Eric Brooks agreed to the request for an adjournment to

Wednesday, Sept. 24.

The accused made his first two court appearances on Sept. 3 and Sept. 10 via closed-circuit television from Lethbridge Correctional Centre, without legal representation.

The man was charged Aug. 30 after a search warrant was executed at a Fort Macleod residence.

The search followed an investigation by the Alberta Law Enforcement Response Team (ALERT) Southern Alberta Internet Child Exploitation (ICE) unit, in partnership with the Fort Macleod RCMP.

Jerry Lee Thompson, 52, of Fort

Macleod, was arrested and charged with transmitting, making available, distributing or selling child pornography.

Thompson is also charged with possession of child pornography; accessing child pornography; and failing to comply with a court order.

Anyone with information about on-line child exploitation offences is encouraged to contact their local RCMP or www.cybertip.ca.

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The tournament champion F.P. Walshe Flyers, back row, from left: assistant coach Sarah Cowley, Nevayah Fox, Maddy Van Buuren, Lily Van Ee, Kinsley Herweyer, Kenni Smith, Lydia Burdett,

Faith Hewlett and coach Michael McTighe. Front row, from left: Alexa Van Herk, Jaya Sharma, Addy Van Herk, Alexandra Mariano, Ashlynn Oberkirsch and Savannah Cervo.

Flyers claim A girls title

FRANK MCTIGHE
GAZETTE EDITOR

The F.P. Walshe Flyers went undefeated Saturday through round-robin and playoffs to win the championship of their own junior high A girls volleyball tournament.

The Flyers hosted nine other teams in the one-day tournament at F.P. Walshe school.

The Flyers are Alexandra Mariano, Maddy Van Buuren, Kenni Smith, Kinsley Herweyer, Lydia Burdett, Jaya Sharma, Addy Van Herk, Savannah Cervo, Nevayah Fox, Lily Van Ee, Faith Hewlett, Alexa Van Herk and Ashlynn Oberkirsch.

For the round-robin portion of the tournament, the Flyers were in Pool A with Noble Central Blades from Nobleford, Stirling Lakers, Matthew Halton Hawks from Pincher Creek and Immanuel Christian Eagles from Lethbridge.

Pool B was made up of the Grade 7-8 F.P. Walshe Flyers team, Coalhurst Crusaders, Willow Creek Composite Cobras from Claresholm, Raymond Comets and St. Catherine's Saints from Picture Butte.

The Flyers opened the tournament Saturday at 8 a.m. by sweeping Noble Central Blades 25-12 and 25-14.

In their next match the Flyers faced a tough test from Stirling Lakers but prevailed with wins of 25-12 and 27-25.

Next up for F.P. Walshe was a match against Matthew Halton Hawks, which the Flyers swept 25-22 and 25-6.

The Flyers closed out round-robin by sweeping Immanuel Christian Eagles 25-5 and 25-10.

In Pool B, F.P. Walshe Grade 7-8 Flyers opened with a 25-23 and 25-17 sweep of Coalhurst.

The Flyers then got swept 25-10 and 25-7 by Willow Creek and 25-7 and 25-12 by Raymond.

F.P. Walshe closed out Pool B round-robin play



Nevayah Fox defends for the F.P. Walshe Flyers.

with a split with St. Catherine's, winning 25-22 and losing 25-18.

The Flyers placed first in Pool A with a record of 8-0, followed by Stirling (5-3), Immanuel Christian (4-4), Noble Central (3-5) and Matthew Halton (0-8).

Willow Creek Cobras led Pool B with a record of 7-1, winning the tie-breaker with Raymond (7-1). St. Catherine's (5-3) was third, F.P. Walshe (3-5) was fourth and Coalhurst (0-8) was fifth.

F.P. Walshe continued its strong play in the playoffs, sweeping the Comets 25-16 and 25-23 to advance to the championship.

In the other semifinal match, Willow Creek Cobras beat Stirling Lakers.

The Flyers made no mistake in the championship, sweeping the Cobras in two sets by scores of 25-17 and 25-20.

In the third-place playoff match, Raymond beat Stirling.



Stella Meech of the Flyers Grade 7-8 team.



Photo contributed

The second-place F.P. Walshe Flyers, back row, from left: coach Jordan Layton, coach Justys Layton, McKye Schaffer, Matthew McNab, Logan Foote, Nathan Gurney, Thatcher Gouchie, Dorian

McDougall and coach Corynn Sheen. Front row, from left: Cooper Orr, Brody Nelson, Pryce Schneider, Bennett O'Connor, Nate Poytress and Gabe Traspe.

Flyers second in A boys tourney

FRANK MCTIGHE
GAZETTE EDITOR

A strong effort Saturday led the F.P. Walshe Flyers to second place in their own junior high A boys volleyball tournament.

The Flyers are Nate Poytress, Brody Nelson, Cooper Orr, Logan Foote, Bennett O'Connor, McKye Schaffer, Matthew McNab, Gabe Traspe, Nathan Gurney, Dorian McDougall, Thatcher Gouchie and Pryce Schneider.

The Flyers hosted nine other teams in the one-day tournament at W.A. Day school.

The Flyers were in Pool A to start the round-robin portion of the tournament, along with Coalhurst Trojans, Noble Central Blades from Nobleford, Willow Creek Composite Cobras from Claresholm and Stirling Lakers.

Pool B was made up of Immanuel Christian Eagles, Livingstone Sabres

from Lundbreck, Matthew Halton Hawks from Pincher Creek, St. Catherine's Saints from Picture Butte and County Central Hawks from Vulcan.

The Flyers opened the tournament at 8 a.m. with a sweep of Coalhurst, beating the Trojans 25-7 and 25-16.

Willow Creek Cobras provided the next opposition for the Flyers, with the same result as F.P. Walshe recorded a sweep by scores of 25-20 and 25-23.

The Flyers took on Noble Central Blades in the afternoon, sweeping the match by scores of 25-17 and 25-15.

F.P. Walshe closed out round-robin with a split against Stirling Lakers, dropping the first set 25-23 but winning the second 25-12.

The Flyers finished round-robin with a 7-1 record to place first in Pool A, followed by Noble Central (6-2), Stirling (4-6), Coalhurst (2-6),

and Willow Creek (1-7).

Immanuel Christian went 8-0 to place first in Pool B, followed by Matthew Halton (5-3), Livingstone (5-3), County Central (2-6), and St. Catherine's (0-8).

The top two teams from each pool advanced to the playoffs.

In one semifinal, F.P. Walshe beat Matthew Halton, while in the other match Immanuel Christian got by Noble Central.

That set up a championship match between the Flyers and Eagles on Saturday night.

Immanuel Christian opened the match with a 25-11 win over the Flyers.

The Eagles downed the Flyers 25-16 in the second set to win the championship.

In the third-place playoff, Noble Central Blades defeated Matthew Halton Hawks.



Photo by Frank McTighe

Thatcher Gouchie serves for the F.P. Walshe Flyers.



Photo by Frank McTighe

Matthew McNab serves for the F.P. Walshe Flyers.

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OBITUARIES

Eunice Vida David Oct. 24, 1937 — Sept. 20, 2025

Eunice Vida David, beloved wife of the late Ken David, passed away peacefully in Lethbridge on Saturday, Sept. 20, 2025, at the age of 87 years.

The funeral service will be held on Monday, Sept. 29, at 11 a.m., at St. Augustine's Anglican Church, 411 11th St. S., Lethbridge, with Reverend Steve Bateman officiating.

To send a condolence, please visit www.cornerstonefuneral-home.com



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Trina Merle Klutskow Nov. 23, 1961 — Sept. 3, 2025

Trina Merle Klutskow of Fort Macleod, daughter of Chuck and Mary Thompson, passed away Sept. 3, 2025, at the age of 63 years. She was born on Nov. 23, 1961 in Fort Macleod, Alberta.

Trina is survived by her father Chuck Thompson, and sisters Darlene Thompson and Wanda (Nolan) Thompson.

She was predeceased by her mother Mary Thompson and brother Gary Thompson.

Celebration of Life service will be held at the Holy Cross Parish Hall, 2517 Third Ave., Fort Macleod at 2 p.m. on Wednesday, Oct. 1, 2025.



Gerald Beekman

Aug. 5, 1948 — Sept. 20, 2025

It is with deep sorrow we announce the sudden passing of our father, husband, grandfather and great grandfather Gerald Beekman at the age of 77. Gerald is survived by his wife of 52 years Rita and three children, Patricia (Marco) de Wilde, Richard (Stacy) Beekman and Henriette (Pieter) Wessels and their families including 19 grandchildren and eight great grandchildren. He is survived by his siblings (Darlene) Beekman, (Greta) Beekman, Joanne Aleman, (Frank and Willy) Vanee, Elberta (Case) Gulliker, Judy (Hank) Barrs, Dini (Marvin) Burton, Gerrit (Evelyn) Beekman. He is survived by in-law Aartje VanderWeiden, (Hennie) Van Middendorp, (Eefje) Van Middendorp, Lientje Beusekom, Nelly (Jim) Chymboryk, Bertha (Walter) Rosendal.

Gerald was predeceased by his son George Beekman and two grandchildren Moriah Wessels and Ayden Vandenberg. His parents Gerrit and Peterie Beekman. Elbert Beekman, Dirk Beekman, Gerri (Drikus) Vandenberg, (Don) Wesley, Pat Vanee and Dorothy (Merle) Houck. Also predeceased by Gijs Van Middendorp, Drees Van Middendorp, Arnold Beusekom, Corrie (Joe) Van Driesten.

Gerald was born in Apeldoorn, Netherlands to Gerrit and Peterie Beekman. At the age of six Gerald, his parents and eight siblings immigrated to Canada. Gerald was instrumental in helping start the family farm in Fort Macleod. Gerald attended the University of Alberta Bachelor of Science Agriculture. It was after Gerald completed his studies he decided to move back to the original homestead and carried on with the family homestead. Gerald lived his life understated and was completing projects until the day he passed.

Condolences were held from 7 p.m. to 8 p.m. on Tuesday, Sept. 23, 2025, D.V., at Eden's Funeral Home, 2424 Fifth Avenue, Fort Macleod.

A funeral service will be held at 10:30 a.m. on Wednesday, Sept. 24, 2025, D.V.; at the Reformed Congregation of North America in Monarch, with Elder Paul Wander officiating.

Interment following funeral service at Union Cemetery, Fort Macleod.

In lieu of flowers a memorial donation may be made to EMS Foundation, 290, 6815 8th Street N.E., Calgary, AB. T2E 7H7.



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OBITUARIES

Gary Packham

March 30, 1962 — Sept. 5, 2025

Gary Packham, resident of Beaverlodge, Alta., formerly of Grande Prairie, passed away peacefully on Friday, Sept. 5, 2025, at his home at the age of 63 years.

Gary was born in Medicine Hat and grew up in Fort Macleod and Yellowknife, NWT, before moving to High Level to assist with management of the family hardware store. It was here that he married and gave life to his three beautiful daughters. While building a home for his family and taking on new opportunities, life took them to Peace River. Eventually, Gary began a new career with Jardin Foods Ltd, introducing him to a new taste and love of driving a truck. He worked for Jardin for many years, as well as some time with Sanjel Energy, before making some hard life choices.

As stories unfold and chapters end, so too, new ones begin. Gary made a commitment to sobriety and moved south to Claresholm. He landed a position with Westcan Bulk Transport, driving a Peterbilt with super B trailers. He was hauling fuel from Sherwood Park to the Fording River Mine north of Elkford, B.C. This was the highlight of his trucking career, combining his love and joy of driving with being in the mountains. He also did some work for Boot Transport and Hornberger Trucking, pulling short-term hauling contracts.

Gary's health took a sudden turn when he was overtaken for an infection, landing him in Foothills Hospital in acute kidney failure. After many weeks there, Gary went to Grande Prairie for his post-hospital care. Once he was well, he decided to stay and make Grande Prairie his home.

Gary began hauling fuel with Northwest Tank Lines, again truly enjoying his time on the highway as a truck driver. Eventually, his diabetes and health issues became too difficult for him to manage on the road, and he ended his job. His life took a downward spiral, and his health began to deteriorate. Through his years, attending AA regularly helped to keep him steady and focused. Unfortunately, his last fall landed him in the Grande Prairie Regional Hospital, where he spent five weeks before moving into the Hythe Pioneer Home. This became his home; however, at the time, it was difficult for Gary to fully accept, so in the summer of 2023, he found an apartment of his own and made Beaverlodge his new home. Gary made many great friends in his building as well as the community. He built an unbelievable network of support for himself, including people from AA, Home Support, and Home Care. After enduring a series of differing and painful health events through 2023 and 2024, Gary began to admit that he could no longer properly care for himself. Gary's health took a turn for the worse in late spring of this year after having two heart attacks and two sepsis infections. He spent three months in the Beaverlodge Hospital healing and recovering. He was awaiting amputation, which was to be this winter. His health and care needs were recently reassessed, and Gary was formally accepted by AHS as needing continuing care. He had chosen a facility, toured it, and chose his room at the Spirit River Pleasant View Lodge. He was looking forward to moving in and joining his newly made friends. He had just been given his move-in date; unfortunately, what he needed came too late, as Gary succumbed to his failing health and he passed before that time.

Gary hung on to his happiest childhood memories of baseball, hockey, and his many friendships. He spoke fondly of family vacations (friends included) at Shuswap Lake, waterskiing, and cliff diving off Copper Island. He had an interest in classic cars and trucks, camping, the mountains, and being anywhere in nature. He had a love for all animals, especially his dogs and cats, which he had over the years. Puss Puss, Sunrise and Sunset were very special cats for him over the last five years, as they brought him a source of love, companionship, comfort, and healing. He came to enjoy cooking and seemed to have every appliance possible. Gary enjoyed listening to music, watching old CSI and comedy sitcoms, and visiting with friends. He loved a good hot Tim Horton's double double and a rousing game of crib.

Gary had a great sense of humour, which helped to get himself through many of the harder and painful times. When able to, he enjoyed a good walk downtown or around the neighbourhood. Gary bought and placed a bench outside the back entry of his apartment building, where he liked to sit. He enjoyed seeing his friends and neighbours come and go. On his good days, from sunrise to sunset, Gary looked for beauty and joyful moments. He was truly grateful for each new day.

Gary will be sadly missed by those who were a part of his whole life, the first few chapters, or the final few. We must all find comfort knowing that Gary is no longer in pain and no longer suffering. He was a friendly, generous, charming, soft-hearted man who helped to bring his own wisdom, insight, and comfort to those he engaged with. One of his nurses, named Garfield, once told Gary that their names derived from the same Greek name meaning Warrior. Gary was truly a steadfast warrior and fighter with resilience, honour, and pride.

Recently, Gary reconnected with an old love from many years gone by. He had never stopped loving her. The day they reconnected is the day that he found the peace and love in his heart that he had been looking for.

Gary's love for his daughters, Cassandra, Chelsea, and Jordan, was never-ending, and they were always very important and special to him. His yearning for acceptance, forgiveness, and healing the severed bonds of love for his girls was all he ever hoped for. His heart held precious love for his granddaughter, Macie, and grandson, Cameron. He also leaves behind his brother Scot and sisters Joanne (Gord) and Jody (Grant), sons-in-law Mike and Tim, and numerous nieces and nephews.

Gary was predeceased by his grandparents, Francis and Kathleen Packham, and Fred and May Huddleston; brother Darren Packham; and parents Elba and Irwin Packham.

Gary has requested no burial, funeral service, or celebration of life. One may choose to engage in an act of kindness, have a Timmie's, and salute a good man.

Condolences may be sent by visiting <https://beaverlodgefuneralservice.com/>.



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COMING EVENTS



Photo by Frank McTighe

Hudson Dalshaug of the F.P. Walshe Flyers drops to make a saving play.

Flyers fourth in B tourney

FRANK MCTIGHE
GAZETTE EDITOR

The F.P. Walshe Flyers fought to a fourth-place finish Friday in their own junior high B boys volleyball tournament.

The Flyers hosted five other teams in the one-day tournament at W.A. Day school.

The Flyers are Raven Angelles, Hayden Williamson, Wyatt Shaw, Cooper Orr, Brody Nelson, Brigham Burdett, Corby Tobler, Gabe Guerrero, Benjamin Bieniewski, Willy Orich, Jackson Chester, Easton Lippa, Hudson Dalshaug and Colter Zielinski.

The Flyers were in Pool A to start round-robin with Stirling Lakers and St. Catherine's Saints from Picture Butte.

Pool B was made up of Livingstone Sabres from Lundbreck, Matthew Halton Hawks from Pincher Creek and Noble Central Blades from Nobleford.

The Flyers opened round-robin with a match against the eventual tournament champion Stirling Lakers.

The Lakers swamped the Flyers 25-10 and 25-15.

The Flyers had better fortune in their next match as they swept St. Catherine's Saints 25-14 and 25-19.

Stirling placed first in Pool A with an unblemished 4-0 record, followed by the Flyers (2-2) and St. Catherine's (0-4).

In Pool B, Matthew Halton and Noble Central tied for first place with identical 3-1 records, with the Hawks winning the tie-breaker.

Livingstone Sabres (0-4) placed third.

In the quarterfinals, the Flyers beat the Sabres and Noble Central downed St. Catherine's.

Matthew Halton advanced to the championship by defeating F.P. Walshe in one semifinal match.

In the other semifinal, Stirling knocked off Noble Central.



Photo by Frank McTighe

Willy Orich of the F.P. Walshe Flyers.

Livingstone Sabres won the consolation final, beating St. Catherine's Saints 25-18 and 25-12.

Noble Central Blades were sharp in the third-place playoff as they cut through the Flyers 25-10 and 25-16.

In the championship match, Stirling Lakers downed Matthew Halton Hawks.

Gazette Classifieds

COMING EVENTS

COMING EVENTS

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38-1 _TMG

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SUN	MON	TUES	WED	THUR	FRI	SAT
21 <i>September</i>	22	23 9am Regular Sale Feat. All-Breed Calves & Yearlings	24	25 9am All-Breed Calf Sale	26	27
28	29	30 9am Regular Sale Feat. All-Breed Calves & Yearlings	1	2 9am Charolais- Influenced Calf Sale	3 <i>October</i>	4
5	6	7 9am Regular Sale Feat. All-Breed Calves & Yearlings	8	9 9am Calf Sale featuring Charolais & Angus	10	11
12	13	14 9am Regular Sale Feat. Thxgiving Calves & Yearlings	15	16 9am Angus- Influenced Calf Sale	17	18
19	20	21 9am Regular Sale Feat. All-Breed Calves & Yearlings	22	23 9am Calf Sale featuring Charolais & Angus	Bred Sales are filling up fast! Visit www.livestock.ab.ca for listings and details!	
26	27	28 9am Regular Sale Feat. All-Breed Calves & Yearlings	29	30 9am All Breed Calf Sale	31	1
2 <i>November</i>	3	4 9am Regular Sale Feat. All-Breed Calves & Yearlings	5 1pm Bred Sale	6 9am All Breed Calf Sale	7	8
9	10	11 9am Regular Sale Feat. All-Breed Calves & Yearlings	12 1pm Bred Sale	13	14 1pm Elite Bred Sale Feat. Red-Hide Females (fully booked!)	15

November 5 Bred Sale

CHASE & JAY ATKINSON - 85 Young Red Angus X Cows. Bred To: Charolais Bulls, out July 1 - Sept 1
SOUTH MEADOW RANCHING - 115 Red & Black Angus X Cows. 40 second calvers, 40 third & fourth calvers, 35 middle-aged. Bred To: Black Bulls, out June 16 - Aug 14.
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November 12 Bred Sale Featuring Reputation Heifer Programs

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TRAUTMAN CATTLE CO - 20 Red Angus X Heifers. Bred To: Red Angus Bulls, out June 10 for 48 days
K-BELT FARMS - 30 Red & RBF Heifers. Bred To: Charolais Bulls, out July 3 - Sept 1
BILL REEDER - 40 Red Angus Heifers. Bred To: Black Angus Bulls, out May 23 - July 3
TOBIN WOODS - 20 Red Angus X Heifers. Bred To: Charolais Bulls, out April 23 - June 30
SEPTEMBER SPRINGS RANCH - 40 Red & RBF Angus X Cows. 20 Second & Third Calvers. 20 Middle Aged Cows. Bred To: Charolais Bulls
MARK & KENT NELSON - 100 Red Angus & Red Angus X Heifers. Bred To: Red/Black Angus Bulls, out May 1 - June 30. 28 Angus & Angus X Second Calvers. Bred To: Red Angus Bulls, out May 23 - July 15
FRANK BEVANS - 27 Red Angus X Heifers. Bred To: Red Angus bull, out June 1 - August 1



Photo by Frank McTigue

Paris McNab of the Flyers reaches for a ball against St. Catherine's Saints.

B Flyers third in tourney

FRANK MCTIGHE

GAZETTE EDITOR

The F.P. Walshe Flyers battled to third place Friday in their own junior high B girls volleyball tournament.

The Flyers hosted five other teams in the one-day tournament played at F.P. Walshe school.

The Flyers are Leah Van Herk, Danica Paskal, Vanz Riotuio, Scarlett Toth, Leanna Ballicud, Paris McNab, Shanella Felicen, Edi Orr, Langley Schneider, Penny Poytress, Maddison Duffy, Sam Buenafe and Claire Hewlett.

The host Flyers, Matthew Halton Hawks from Pincher Creek and St. Catherine's Saints from Picture Butte made up Pool A.

Pool B was made up of Willow Creek Cobras from Claresholm, Stirling Lakers, and Noble Central Blades from Nobleford.

The Flyers opened the tournament Friday against Matthew Halton, and ran into a high-flying team of Hawks.

The Hawks opened the match with a 25-20 win in a hard-fought set.

In the second set, the Hawks prevailed 25-19 to complete the sweep.

In their second round-robin match it was the Flyers who brought out the brooms, sweeping St. Catherine's.

The Flyers rallied from a 12-2 deficit to win the first set 26-24, and then



Photo by Frank McTigue

Langley Schneider of the F.P. Walshe Flyers against St. Catherine's Saints.

handled the Saints 25-17 in the second set.

Matthew Halton went 3-1 to place first in Pool A, followed by F.P. Walshe (2-2) and St. Catherine's (0-4).

In Pool B, Willow Creek Cobras and Noble Central finished in a first-place tie with records of 3-1, with the Cobras winning the tie-breaker.

Stirling (0-4) placed third.

In one quarterfinal match, F.P. Walshe beat Stirling 25-15 and 26-24 while Noble Central beat St. Catherine's.

In one semifinal, Willow

Creek swept the Flyers 25-22 and 25-13 to advance to the championship match.

The other semifinal saw Matthew Halton beat Noble Central to punch their ticket to the final.

The Flyers matched up against Stirling in the third-place playoff. F.P. Walshe won the first set 25-16 and completed the sweep with a 25-21 victory in the second set.

In the consolation final, Noble Central swept Stirling 25-21 and 25-13.

In the championship, Willow Creek beat Matthew Halton.

Caughlin in national role

Fort Macleod's Todd Caughlin, has been appointed a leadership role within the Canadian Collegiate Athletic Association.

Caughlin, who is Lethbridge Polytechnic's director of athletics and recreation services, officially began his first term as CCAA national convener for men's volleyball.

"It's very wild to truly come full circle in the sport that opened doors and led me to where I am today," said Caughlin, a former F.P. Walshe Flyer. "It's a true honour to be asked to fill this position and I look forward to facing the challenges that lie ahead."

In this national position, Caughlin will be responsible for overseeing the administration and development of men's volleyball across Canada at the collegiate level.

Caughlin's role includes supporting event

operations, guiding future championship hosts, collaborating with national stakeholders and ensuring the consistent application of sport-specific rules and procedures throughout the season and at national events.

Caughlin brings a wealth of volleyball experience to the position.

A former student-athlete in the Alberta Colleges Athletic Conference, Caughlin competed in men's volleyball at both Lethbridge Polytechnic and Red Deer Polytechnic.

Caughlin went on to coach at the collegiate level in the CCAA and spent several years coaching volleyball in the National Collegiate Athletic Association in the United States.

Since joining Lethbridge Polytechnic as athletics director in 2014, Caughlin has helped elevate the Kodiaks to national prominence while fostering a culture of academic and athletic excellence.

Caughlin's leadership has been instrumental in building a strong, student-centered athletic program recognized across Canada.



Todd Caughlin